

Application No. 09/834,003

Filed: April 12, 2001

TC Art Unit: 3693

Confirmation No.: 1861

In support of the reasons for traverse, Applicant sets forth the following:

Applicant seeks herein to (1) present comment regarding the PCT International Preliminary Examination Report dated 12 December 2002, PCT/US01/12033; (2) present comment regarding restrictions classifications made; and (3) present comment on meeting complexity concerns similarly expressed by the United Kingdom Patent Office.

1. Applicant believes that the PCT International Preliminary Examination Report dated 12 December 2002, PCT/US01/12033, provides important guidance.

The present invention gives SMEs the ability to simply and effectively function in a multi-currency environment, but on terms personalized and familiar to them. It does so by providing a structured methodology to globalizes prices whether prices are set 1) by standard price lists, 2) on a transaction-by-transaction basis including when transactions involve multiple delivery and payment schedules over a time horizon, or 3) as part of a company's budgeting process.

By enabling merchants to build appropriate hedging strategies into their pricing strategies, they can determine on a forward basis both how to preserve home currency profit and how to price in world market in order to drive sales. Compliance and business risks are reduced with a check off that each hedge is policy compliant, maps to the company's global business, and accurately reflects its pricing strategies. Improved compliance removes a major barrier to this merchant class accessing the types of

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financial hedging instruments required to successfully complete today -- giving them both predictability and agility.

2. Applicant believes that the restrictions diminish the value of the invention. Unique values are derived from the full process. But at the same time, Applicant acknowledges that the subcomponents have independent value.

The present invention provides a structured and collaborative multi-currency commerce capability that enables merchants to visually map their cross-border business, set risk policy parameters, determine how to include currency considerations in prices for their domestic or foreign markets on a forward basis with risk strategies embedded, as well as execute financial strategies to hedge risk in a fully compliant environment.

Claims 1 to 89 relate to an Internet based invention. Claims 90 through 105 were summaries added to extend the same invention to the software domain, such that each claim, starting with Claim 90, starts with the term, "a server system..."

Subcombinations were each separately claimed, with Claim 89 written to unify the subcombinations into a single end-to-end process. Hence, in Claim 89, when the particulars of the subcombination unit to create an entire process, unique values are created. The subcombinations may have separate utility, but they have a distinctive utility as a unified process. The essential utility is:

Compliance, with a check off that each hedge is policy compliant, maps to the company's global business, and

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accurately reflects its pricing strategies making
accessible derivative financial instruments.

Applicant further believes that limits to the range of
advisory services under Claim 89 are distinguished as those in the
subcomponents, with the groupings in Claim 89 made to describe
process flow and the method of bringing the subcomponents together
into a single process.

3. Applicant believes that complexity concerns similarly
expressed by the United Kingdom Patent Office were
satisfactorily addressed by the UK patent counsel by
submitting a revised set of claims. Applicant worked
with authoring UK attorney in 2004 to create a set of
claims that expressed the business process, relating
each part to the whole, as follows:

Mapping of a company's Global Business including cash
flows, open and anticipated positions, competitors and
budgets.

Setting up of Policy with business rules and triggers
governing Mapped Global Business.

Adjusting base currency Price Lists / Budgets to include
cross border risks on Mapped Global Business consistent
with Policy.

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Executing Hedges embedded in Pricing consistent with
Policy and in comparison to Mapped Global Business.

Integration of real time tiered Market Data with risk
triggers set in Policy governing Mapped Global Business.

Compliance reporting and risk analysis consistent with
Policy and in comparison with Mapped Global Business.

e-Learning for "Know Your Customer" and
"Appropriateness" certifying on the above modules.

Applicant expresses the belief that the claims of Group 4
should be part of Group 6. The rules basis which is set forth in
the Group 4 claims is significant because the rules base is a key
value enabling compliant access to financial instruments.
Secondly, Applicant believes that the business intelligence
derived from the activity and reported using the "in and out"
methodology is a highly valuable and an integral feature. Thus,
the claims of Group 4 and 6 should remain together.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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